

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (**currently amended**): A soil treatment process comprising adding an aqueous soil treatment composition consisting essentially of:

(a) an ionic water-soluble fertilizer in an amount of at least 10 weight percent, and

(b) a water-soluble anionic polymer ~~with~~ which has intrinsic viscosity of from 9 to 12 dl/g and is formed from water-soluble monomer blend comprising 60 to 80 wt.% anionic monomer and from 40 to 20 wt.% nonionic monomer, the composition having a viscosity of not more than 4,000 cps, to water, the composition being thereby diluted, and irrigating an area of soil with the water.

13. (**previously presented**): A process according to claim 12 in which the soil is irrigated by furrow irrigation, drip irrigation, or spray irrigation.

14. (**currently amended**): A process according to claim 12 in which water is pumped through feed ducting and a mixing zone to a spray manifold supplying one or more spraying devices by which the water is sprayed onto a crop area and the ~~aqueous~~ aqueous soil treatment composition is metered into the water at or before the mixing zone.

41
15. (**currently amended**): A method for the production of an aqueous soil treatment composition comprising providing an aqueous solution of at least 10 wt% ionic water soluble fertilizer (a) and mixing it with polymer (b), said polymer (b) being a water soluble anionic polymer which has an intrinsic viscosity of ~~of~~ from 9 to 12 dl/g and is formed from water-soluble monomer blend comprising 60 to 80 wt.% anionic monomer and from 40 to 20 wt.% nonionic monomer, the composition having a viscosity of not more than 4,000 cps, in powder form.

16. (**previously presented**): A soil treatment process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the composition has, before dilution, a viscosity below 4000 cPs.

17. (**previously presented**): A process according to claim 12 in which the polymer (b) is a copolymer of acrylamide with an alkali metal salt of acrylic acid.

18. (**previously presented**): A process according to claim 12 in which the polymer (b) is present in an amount of from 2 to 5 wt.%.

19. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the fertiliser (a) is present in an amount of from 20 to 60 wt.%.

20. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the aqueous soil treatment composition has a viscosity of from 200 to 500 cps.

21. **(previously presented)**: A process according to claim 12 in which the aqueous soil treatment composition has a viscosity of not more than 1,000 cps.